

# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MUSEUM

The United States Air Force Museum is located near Dayton, Ohio, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It is internationally recognized as the Air Force's national museum and the largest and oldest aviation museum in the world, with approximately 17 acres of exhibits.

This free attraction features nearly 350 aircraft and missiles, plus thousands of personal artifacts, documents, photographs and mementos of Air Force history from the early 1900s to the present.

The Museum complex is operated by the United States Air Force. Retired Air Force Major General Charles D. Metcalf serves as director. The Museum staff of 96 civil service employees represents a broad spectrum of backgrounds in museology, aircraft restoration, exhibit design, public relations and administration. More than 400 volunteers provide assistance in all areas of the Museum's operation, from greeting and assisting visitors to working on restoration projects.

The Museum is under the operational control of the commander of the Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The History Office of the Secretary of the Air Force in Washington, D.C., provides policy guidance for the Museum.

Nearly 1.35 million visitors from across the nation and around the globe tour the Museum each year. It is Ohio's number one non-commercial tourist attraction.

## HISTORY

The United States Air Force Museum was established in 1923 at McCook Field near Dayton, and was relocated to Wright Field in

1927. Due to the urgent need for administrative space to support the war effort, the Museum closed its doors to the public from 1940 to 1955.

In 1960, local interest in aviation history sparked the creation of the Air Force Museum Foundation, Inc. Its first goal was to finance larger and more modern facilities for the Museum. The Foundation launched a nationwide fund-raising campaign, and by the later 1960s construction was underway. In September 1971, President Nixon dedicated the new \$6 million facility. Five years later, the Foundation donated a \$1 million addition to the building. In 1988, a major \$10.8 million expansion funded equally by the foundation and the federal government opened. The IMAX Theatre and atrium, a \$7.3 million project funded by the Foundation, opened in 1991.

## LOCATION

The Museum is six miles northeast of Dayton, accessed easily off Interstate 70 and 75 to Interstate 675, Col. Glenn Highway exit. Information may be obtained by writing: United States Air Force Museum, 1100 Spaatz Street, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio 45433-7102 or calling (937) 255-3286. Those with internet access are invited to visit our world wide web site at: [www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/](http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/) for a virtual tour of the Museum, along with up-to-date information on special events and the latest displays and exhibits.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

The Museum is open daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking and admission are free. There is a charge for the IMAX Theatre.

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